



Laceby Football Club



Participation policy

The fundamentals of player playing time “at least 50% playing time” at Laceby FC will relate to two key pillars:

Why Children Play Football

They play because it is FUN, but the fun is in the playing. It is most fun for those who play the most and not so much fun if the child is denied the opportunity to play in matches.

Laceby FC Vision/Mission Statement

It is the mission of Laceby Football Club to offer the opportunity for young people in the community to participate in football, developing both their footballing skills alongside critical life/social skills alongside each other. Therefore, for all age groups whether friendlies or match day, players will play at least 50% of the game as per FA recommendations.

Please note, the ‘at least 50% playing time’ is also interlaced with players giving 100% effort and positive attitude. These attributes are important to instil the need for players to earn their place with effort and positive.

Rationale

Laceby FC believes that having a participation policy is the best strategy for player development for the following reasons:

1.Maximises long-term player development

Without access to playing time, quality coaching or experiencing critical game situations players who started playing late or are temporarily behind their peers in terms of physical or mental development are less likely to improve. These same players may have more long-term potential if provided with the same opportunities to develop.

2.Development v Winning

As point 1 states, our participation policy provides the very best opportunities for long-term sustained player development. At Laceby FC this comes before winning individual games of football. Games of football are competitions, and healthy competition is good for the personal development of our young players, but not to the detriment of equal opportunities to play and develop equally as a team.

3.Fun increases motivation

The number one reason children play sport is to have fun. Enjoying playing football is the main reason children work hard in practice and spend their free time playing and practicing on his/her own. Not playing isn't fun and can result in children who are less motivated to not improve, have less fun and who may choose to leave the game.

4.Social/psychological well-being of the players

The club and coaches have a duty of care for all players well-being. Players not receiving substantive game time are at risk to a negative impact on their own self-worth and well-being. The club and coaches will consider and be aware of the impact of their own actions around game time on their players Mental Health

5.Embraces the concept of a 'team'

When players feel that everyone is an important part of the team and are treated fairly, they are more likely to focus on working together. When teamwork improves, players are more likely to make friends, have fun during training and matches, and the team will have a better chance of experiencing success.

6.Players develop at different ages

Children that are excelling in the here and now, won't necessarily still be a shining star four years from now. All players develop at their own pace. Coaches should allow them to make mistakes and learn the game, without a dependence on the final score. It also may make sense to rotate positions so that the players have varied game positional experience which adds to their ever-growing game understanding.

7.Improve relationships between coaches and parents

One of the most common causes of disagreements between coaches and parents is the subject of playing time. By providing players with equal opportunities to play, coaches set the stage for more positive relationships with parents. Parents attend games to support their child and the team. Lack of playing time can cause unnecessary frustration directed at coaches, and other club officials.

8.Minimise drop out

Sadly, a high percentage of children who play football stop playing the game before they get to the age of 15. A recent study found the top five reasons for the high dropout rate were:

- Lack of playing time
- Overemphasis on winning
- Other activities are more interesting
- Lack of fun
- Coaching/adult behaviours

Practicalities

Laceby FC will adopt our Participation Policy for all age groups, therefore all players will play at least 50% playing time when players are giving 100% effort and positive attitude.

The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the club committee and published to all members prior to the commencement of each season, and again as a reminder to all coaches and parents in January following the Christmas break.

Laceby FC Participation Policy is underpinned by the FAs Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy, summarised below:



A Game For All



A Game For All is The FA's equality, diversity and inclusion strategy.

The FA strives to ensure football is a game for all. Inclusion regardless of ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, disability, age, pregnancy, maternity, marital status or civil partnership makes our football environments stronger.

Football Leadership Diversity Code



The FA Leadership Diversity Code for grassroots football, focuses on increasing equality of opportunity by encouraging the selection of leaders and coaches based on merit from a significantly wider pool of diverse talent.

Building a more diverse, qualified, and representative committee and workforce that represents your local community will help shape, influence, and support a thriving culture within your club.

Find out more and sign up to [the code](#) today.

Football Your Way



Football Your Way is the FA's game plan for disability football.

The plan is a roadmap to ensure that as part of the equality, diversity and inclusion strategy, disabled people have the opportunity to participate in football their way, from grassroots all the way to the elite end of the game.